all the news they don't tell you

TAMESIDE EYE

MARCH 1979 Nº 5

15p

TAKING THE LID OFF CLYDE HOUSE

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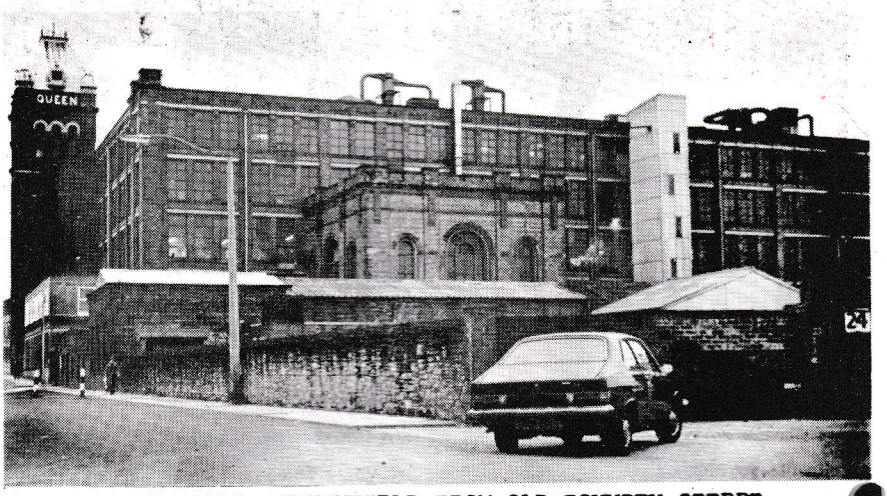


QUEEN MILL, DUKINFIELD FROM OLD FOUNDRY STREET

THE GATES TO SUCCESS . . .

STERLING MOULDINGS - THE ACCIDENT PRONE CHEMICAL COMPANY HAS RECENTLY BEEN TAKEN OVER BY RIO-TINTO ZINC, A MASSIVE MULTINATIONAL CORPORATION.
AND RESIDENTS NOW FEAR THAT THE NEW OWNERS WILL FIGHT THE RECENT COUNCIL DECISION REFUSING PLANNING PERMISSION FOR A NEW RESIN PLANT AT QUEEN MILL, DUKINFIELD.

Planning permission was rejected by Tameside Council, second time round, late last year. Dukinfield residents campaigned vigorously for this, and were delighted with their success. One convincing argument they used was that tankers going to and from the new plant would be driving past terraced houses on Old Foundry Street, obviously causing nuisance and danger to residents.

Sterling threatened to appeal against the council decision (the firm lost a lot of money over the botched plans) but so far has kept quiet - occupied by the take-over, we assume.

However, a rather curious planning application concerning the Queen Mill site has recently been passed by the Planning Committee: planning permission for a pair of GATES. These gates will connect Queen Mill yard with the new part of Foundry Street about 200 yards from the junction of Foundry Street and Oxford Road where traffic lights are due to be erected.

The Secretary of State for Transport has the power to reject planning applications which seek to make entry onto trunk roads - on the grounds that they are dangerous. Acting upon Cllr. Hatton's advice, Dukinfield Residents (Sec. Tel.344-5181) are now appealing to the Transport Minister over this case: we wonder why Tameside Planning Committee passed it so readily?

Since these gates would cut out the use of Old Foundry Street by tankers, they obviously forestall one of the residents' arguments against the building of the new plant. Is somebody somewhere assuming that permission to build a resin plant will be granted soon?

AGGRO FOR ACROW

ACROW - A LARGE INTERNATIONAL COMPANY - OWN ADAMSON & HATCHETT, A DUKINFIELD ENGINEERING FIRM. THEY HAVE JUST HAD TO PAY OUT £3,691 TO AN EX-EMPLOYEE - IN AN EQUAL PAY CASE.

Joan Cartlidge, who lives in Dukinfield, has recently been awarded £3,691 at a Manchester Industrial Tribunal. Her ex-employer, the paternalistic Adamson and Hatchett, have paid out the highest amount ever for a case of this kind.

Joan, who has **said** she "couldn't have stuck the job for less money than the men", had her determination to win the case vindicated by the Tribunal on three counts:

- She was entitled to Equal Pay.
- She had been Unfairly Dismissed.
- Adamson and Hatchett had discriminated against her.

But some disturbing aspects of the affair leave the "victory" won, but the battle lost.

In the first place, she has not got her old job back. The Tribunal said it was "not appropriate to re-instate her", and Adamson and Hatchett have now taken on someone else.

Secondly, the matter has taken three years to sort out. In early 1976, Joan asked for equal pay with the man next to her doing the same job, but for £500 a year more. By November, 1976 she had been dismissed --- "made redundant" according to the firm --- and has been out of work since. £3,691 **seems precious little compensation for her worry and loss of livlihood.**

Mrs. Joan Cartlidge

Mr. S. Shenton - a Director of both Adamson and Hatchett and Adamson Containers (Reddish) - gave Joan the push, on the pretext that she could have another job at Reddish or be made redundant. In fact, the move to the new container factory at Reddish had already been settled over the negotiating table with the unions of the two firms, and Joan did not want to travel that far to work in any case.

Shenton was criticised for his role in the affair by the Chairman of the Tribunal, who didn't think very much of Shenton's "evidence" or his behaviour towards Joan.

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) paid for a solicitor for Joan, Jack Thornley, who by coincidence happens to be a Tameside Councillor. We asked the EOC why the whole case had taken three years and why Joan hadn't got her job back? A spokesman at their plush Manchester H.Q., said "This is not the EOC's business".

Until the EOC stepped in, Joan organised her own case against the firm. Office and Clerical staff are not fully unionised, although the Shop Floor is, and attempts by TASS to get them into the union in the past have been blocked by management. The last union organiser in the office at Adamson and Hatchett was "made redundant".

PENDRY JOINS IN

Whilst the case was dragging on, Joan Cartlidge approached her M.P. for assistance. Tom Pendry helped her by taking all the relevant papers down to London for the Appeal part of Joan's case. He also rang Joan up to inform her that the firm, Adamson and Hatchett, were prepared to settle out of court for £500. He pointed out that the firm's "pride was very hurt". Fortunately, Joan Cartlidge did not accept this ridiculously low offer.

Last year Tom Pendry attended an Adamson Containers function at Bell Vue, with his friend Stuart Hall, the well known Look North/It's a Knockout/Football Commentator. Their wives, Moira Pendry and Hazel Hall are directors of Hall Pendry Associates - a P.R. firm. Moira Pendry organised the publicity for Adamson Containers when a Chinese Trade Delegation visited them in 1978, and when the new Reddish factory was opened.

CONT. page 4

AGGRO FOR ACROW

SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON A COMPANY THAT FOUGHT AGAINST A WOMAN'S EQUAL PAY CLAIM

Inside the Company

W.A. de VIGIER, CHAIRMAN

Adamson and Hatchett, Dukinfield engineering firm, bought out by ACROW in 1964. After 4 years under ACROW expanded into making Containers, resulting in Adamson Containers being set up - who now have a big new factory at Reddish.

ACROW - large international company, with business interests in countries such as Argentina, Iran, South Africa.

Facts and figures from last year's accounts;

- Turnover £147 millions - wages ¼ of this.
- Profits up by 22½% on previous year.

Earnings on shares up by 25½% on previous year.

Dividends were 12% of Profits; the dividend paid out was "the maximum permitted under current (government) guidelines".

■

ACROW and its workforce: Very paternalistic, at Adamson's there are signs hanging up on the shop floor "Quality is our best Salesman", etc

■

ACROW's Chairman: "I would like to thank all my fellow workers throughout the group for their continued contribution to our success". (Note the Royal "we"). Despite large size of company, only 7,400 people employed in U.K. The Group Managing Director, Mr. Jack, put it in a nut-shell on a BBC interview: "We try to keep our head-count of people down to the right number. We don't overman. This is absolutely fundamental; it helps our profitability".

■

ACROW's Chairman, W.A. de Vigier: He is the individual shareholder with the largest number of shares in the company, which are worth £366,000 on face value alone, and paid him £170,000 + in dividends last year. On top - icing on the cake, so to speak - de Vigier received "emoluments" of £21,442. Should just about cover the upkeep of his racehorse "ACROW LAD".

■

ACROW spends money: Last year ACROW had a World Convention at Kempton Park, and spent a cool £1•2 million promoting ACROW and its Chairman. This promotion certainly paid off in one way; Government grants totalling £824,000 were made available to ACROW last year.

The Company Report also states that £500 went to Saffron Walden Constituency Conservative Association. This figure is somewhat at odds with the £10,000 to the Tory Party and £5,000 to the Centre for Policy Studies ACROW contributed last year - according to the Labour Party Research Department.

■

ACROW also spent £162,000 on the service of their Auditors.

Building Contracts

COPLEY RECREATION CENTRE IN STALYBRIDGE IS STILL NOT FULLY OPERATIONAL BECAUSE OF SERIOUS BUILDING FAULTS. BUT THE BUILDER RESPONSIBLE IS STILL GETTING CONTRACTS FROM THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.....

Over the past year, W. Fearnley and Sons Ltd., of Salford have received building contracts worth £674,138 from Tameside.

On 23rd May, 1978 the Social Services Committee gave them a contract worth £332,900 for building an Old People's Home. Two months later they got a further £289,870 from the Education Committee for work on a Primary School at Clarendon Road, Dukinfield. And in October, the Housing Committee awarded them a contract worth £51,368 for 'pre-painting' work on Harbour Farm Council Estate in Hyde.

Meanwhile, the 'teething troubles' at Fearnley's Copley site, which caused the Centre's opening to be delayed for over a year, are continuing. As reported in Eye 4, the badly leaking roof, which resulted, last January, in a flood that buckled the floor in the main hall, has been fixed, but the floor is still buckled.

The tiles around the swimming pools and changing rooms are still badly stained, despite the six months trial period of vigorous cleaning suggested by the builder.

Property barons on the move...

JUST A TRUST

THE MONEY MAKING PLANS OF A MASSIVE LAND OWNING TRUST COULD INVOLVE CONSIDERABLE PERSONAL DISTRESS AND UPHEAVAL FOR SMALL TENANT FARMERS IN TAMESIDE AND A LOSS OF PRECIOUS GREEN BELT TO PRIVATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT.....

Before he died in April, 1978 the tenant of Cinderland Farm, Littlemoss, Droylsden, designated his son, Reginald Cooke, as his successor. But on April, 17th, just two weeks after his father's death, Mr. Cooke received notice to quit from the owners, who are known as "The Trustees of Lord Deramores Estates". The "Trustees" didn't want Mr. Cooke out because he was a bad farmer or because he was likely to be a poor tenant, they wanted him out in order to knock down the farm and build a private housing estate on the land. The capital raised from this, and similar ventures, all over the Trusts. Tameside estates, would be used to finance further "rationalisation" and "amalgamation" of other tenant farms in the interest of greater efficiency and profitability.

This process of Rationalisation, has hit problems in Tameside. In the case of Cinderland farm, Mr. Cooke appealed against the quit-notice to the Agricultural Land Tribunal.

cont.p.6

WORK IN PROGRESS AT THE NEW ICL PLANT AT THE SNIPE

BISSEL'S ROUTE

OPPOSITION TO THE DENTON MIDDLETON SECTION OF THE "MANCHESTER OUTER RING ROAD" IS GROWING AMONGST LOCAL RESIDENTS GROUPS. BUT BIG BUSINESSMEN, LANDOWNERS AND PROPERTY DEVELOPERS ARE VYING WITH EACH OTHER WITH PLANS TO CASH IN.....

Latest is one of Tameside's biggest land owners, Mrs. E. Bissel of Enville Hall, Nr. Stourbridge, in Worcester.

On 21st November, Hill & Cordingley, Mrs. Bissel's agents in Tameside, submitted planning applications for a 69 acre industrial estate in Ashton. The development would take in land on both sides of Manchester Road, including the site of the old Snipe Pit and parts of The Moss, as far as Reyner Lane.

The ICL factory already being built on the Snipe site would be part of the new development, but the market gardens and houses across the way would, presumably, come down.

cont. p.6

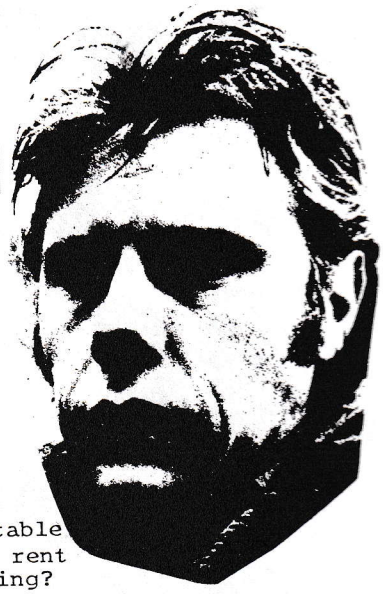
Baron Deramore

"THE TRUSTEES OF LORD DERAMORE'S ESTATE" AND MRS. BISSEL WERE THE CHIEF BENEFICIARIES FROM THE BREAK-UP OF THE EARL OF STAMFORD'S MASSIVE ESTATES IN THE MID-70's. WE WERE UNABLE TO DISCOVER MUCH ABOUT MRS. BISSEL BUT THE PRESENT HOLDER OF THE DERAMORE TITLE IS SOMEWHAT LESS ANONYMOUS.

According to WHO'S WHO? AND DEBRETTS PEERAGE, he is Richard Arthur De Yarburgh Bateson, the 6th Baron. Dickie was born in 1911, educated at Harrow and Cambridge and is now a Chartered Architect and Design Consultant for an advertising company. He lives at Heslington House, Pickering, Yorkshire. There is no evidence that he has ever met Mr. Cooke of Cinderland Farm, Littlemoss.

HOUSING MEN RESORT TO...

BAILIFF POWER!



The unacceptable face of rent collecting?

TAMESIDE COUNCIL TENANTS COULD HAVE THEIR POSSESSIONS SEIZED BY BAILIFFS AND SOLD TO PAY OFF RENT ARREARS. AND TENANTS EVICTED FOR ARREARS WILL NOT BE REHOUSED.

THESE ARE AMONG TOUGH NEW RULES DRAWN UP BY LOCAL HOUSING DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS AND NOW PASSED BY THE COUNCIL.

RULES WHICH OFFICIALS OPENLY ADMIT ARE MEANT TO ACT AS A 'THREAT' TO TENANTS.

The 'distraint' procedure, under which bailiffs can, without "lengthy legal proceedings" seize goods "in lieu of rent arrears" and sell them off, the proceeds going to the tenants rent account, is described as "a landlords ancient right" Its use was stopped by Tameside in 1975.

Pressure for its reintroduction has come not from the Tory council, but from the senior officials, Who are quite clear why they want it. "the main purpose of this action is its speed of execution and use as a threat...."

monkeys

The new hardline policy has been worrying GMC groups concerned with homelessness. They claim that it goes against the spirit of present government policy and will probably be made illegal under the new housing bill.

Tameside housing bosses claim that the tough measures are necessary to stop some tenants making monkeys out of them. They say,

"The Housing Department currently has six tenants owing total arrears of£2100 who are approaching eviction for the first time and have stated to the Housing Department that they are deliberately accruing rent arrears in order to be evicted and rehoused elsewhere."

The demand for a new hard line was first presented to Tameside Housing Services Committee in November, by Deputy Housing Manager Melling. Tacked on to the end of a routine report from the Senior Housing Aid Officer, on the Homeless Persons Act.

In December, the report quoted above was presented. Including FOR THE FIRST TIME mention of 'distraint' as a possible weapon. It was passed.

IN JANUARY'S FULL COUNCIL MEETING SOME COUNCILLORS WERE WORRIED THAT THE NEW POLICY COULD INFLICT SUFFERING ON GENUINELY HARD-UP TENANTS. BUT ATTEMPTS TO PUSH THROUGH AN AMENDMENT, FORCING LOCAL OFFICERS TO BRING EVICTION PROPOSALS TO COMMITTEE MEETINGS TO BE VETTED, WAS THROWN OUT BY A CONSERVATIVE MAJORITY

Researched and written with "City Enquirer"

(Cont'd from p. 5)

JUST A TRUST

The farm is a grade three listed building and demolition plans require the consent of, either the local authority or the Minister. The farm itself stands on Green Belt land.

A further Deramore plan to build on Green Belt land has recently been rejected by the Tameside Planning Committee. This plan, according to Bernard Higginbotham of Hill & Cordingley (Deramore's Tameside Agents) was part of the same process of fund-raising for "rationalising" small farms, and involved building a residential estate on land used at present by the Ashton Golf Club.

Stop Press

The planning application to build on the Littlemoss farms was taken off the agenda of the Tameside Planning Committee a few days before it last met. It is possible that it will be re-submitted to GMC Planning Committee instead (where people who know less about Littlemoss might be more liable to accept it).

(Cont'd from p.5)

BISSEL'S ROUTE

It is interesting that Mrs. Bissel's plans assume that the Ring Road will be built along the "Blue Route". Maps included in the application show the M-Way slip road running right through the estate, making it an extremely attractive site for interested factory owners.

tameside's foremost gossip columnist

Ta, Shah!

Is nothing Sacred? That wonderful man James Anderton, the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, has recently been the victim of a malicious attack from that panty-waisted, pinko rag, "New Manchester Review"

And all because ingenuous Jim and some of his fellow police officers accepted gifts of Whiskey from the Iranian Embassy last Christmas! What, I ask, could have been more natural than this generous act of the Shah's men? Had not the James boys been doing them good service around Christmas by prosecuting 10 militant Iranian students for occupying Embassy offices (in a vicious protest against so-called oppression in the Shah's delightfully peaceful domain?) And did not generous Jim make a donation to an un-named charitable body, in lieu of the booze he drank?

Tch! Some people can only see dirt!

Intrepid Tom

Conservative Councillor John Kershaw has recently appeared in "The Reporter" criticising local Labour M.P., Tom Pendry for failing to condemn the recent industrial action by NUPE members in Tameside.

Well, I hope my old friend John will forgive me for saying so, but for once he is clearly wrong. All you have to do John, is put yourself in Tom's shoes to see that far from CRITICISING, you should have been PRAISING the normally outspoken M.P. for Stalybridge and Hyde.

You see, Tom is a member of NUPE, an ex-NUPE official and a NUPE sponsored M.P. So, he must have been under all sorts of pressure to make a public gesture of SUPPORT for the low-paid workers whose union subscriptions are paying his Parliamentary expenses. But, has tenacious Tom capitulated to all this pressure? He has not! Throughout the whole period when his fellow unionists were being mercilessly attacked on T.V., in the Press and in the Tameside Council Chamber, when public opinion seemed almost unanimously against them, what did Tom do? I'll tell you! Tom remained courageously silent!

So I ask you John, could Conservatives like ourselves reasonably expect anything more from a Labour Politician in this very important election year?

~IN COUNCIL~

BAT BEATS CO OP

From two tenders for the ground floor shopping space in the new Town Hall Complex, the Policy and Resources Committee recommended that the offer from International Stores (subsid. of British American Tobacco-BAT) be accepted.

BAT were willing to offer about £80,000 per year more rent: but then, their competitors the Co-Op, offered to throw in Arcadia, a large building in central Ashton, for which the council surely could have found some use? And BAT tied up their offer with all sorts of complicated strings about elevators and car parks and walkways from and to them, complications which will inevitably increase construction costs.

But BAT WERE offering more money: and anyway, what are your politics? Everyone knows the Co-op has dangerously lefty characteristics - whereas BAT last year generously donated £7,000 to Tory research and propaganda organisations (£1,000 to a Centre for Policy Studies, £6,000 to Aims for Freedom and Enterprise).

NB The full Council meeting where this is to be ratified occurs after our print date.

FIREMAN MAYOR ?

Rumour has it that Top Tameside Tories want Deputy-Mayor John Stelfox for new Mayor, despite his comparatively recent advent to council ranks (3 years this May). What makes Fireman John such a shooting star?

A sour twisted mind might think it has something to do with him being the only Tory amongst the six Droylsden councillors. If he's had a year as Mayor, his slender majority in Droylsden might have improved when he comes up for re-election next year - and the Tories would stand a better chance of keeping their toe-hold in Droylsden. (Deputy Mayor Stelfox lives in Mossley).

CHARITY BEGI HOME

'Good works' probe

THE TAMESIDE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COUNCIL (TCIC) IS A REGISTERED CHARITY THAT WAS SET UP NEARLY TEN YEARS AGO TO HARNESS THE ENERGIES OF LOCAL PEOPLE IN THE RUN-DOWN WEST END OF ASHTON.

IN THE MID SEVENTIES TCIC GREW RAPIDLY, FED ON LARGE SUMS OF PUBLIC MONEY, UNTIL ITS TRUSTEES (WHO INCLUDED PROMINENT LOCAL COUNCILLORS, BUSINESSMEN, PROBATION OFFICERS AND A LEADING CRIMINOLOGIST) FOUND THEMSELVES IN CHARGE OF AN EMPIRE THAT HELD SWAY OVER BATTERED WIVES HOSTELS, NIGHT SHELTERS, HOSTELS FOR YOUNG OFFENDERS, SHORT STAY HOUSING FOR THE HOMELESS (PROVIDED BY TAMESIDE COUNCIL) AND SCORES OF WORKERS EMPLOYED UNDER GOVERNMENT FINANCED JOB CREATION PROJECTS (JCP).

IN ITS HEYDAY THE TCIC HQ AT CLYDE HOUSE WAS USED BY MANY LOCAL PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY GROUPS AS A MEETING PLACE AND ADVICE CENTRE. PLANS WERE AFOOT TO SET UP A TCIC HOUSING ASSOCIATION.

THEN THE BUBBLE BURST.....

FOREIGNERS!

ON AT LEAST TWO OCCASIONS WORKMEN AND SUPERVISORS EMPLOYED BY THE TCIC ON GOVERNEMENT FINANCED JOB CREATION PROJECTS DID "FOREIGNERS" ON JCP TIME WHILST STILL DRAWING JCP MONEY. ONE OF THE FOREIGNERS INVOLVED WORK ON A HOUSE BELONGING TO A CLOSE RELATIVE OF A LEADING MEMBER OF THE TCIC BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

During late 1976 and early 1977 workers employed by TCIC put a damp course into 223 Curzon Road, Ashton. No official instructions had been issued for the work to be done and Trustees were not aware that the work was being carried out. Workmen who did the job were supposed to be working on legitimate TCIC projects at the time.

The house belonged to Mike Jones, son of Charlie Jones, the Senior Probation Officer in Ashton, and the Secretary of the TCIC Trust.

Charlie Jones had asked certain members of the TCIC about the possibility of having work done on his son's house, by JCP workmen, at weekends. The proposal was refused, but a "private arrangement" for the work to be done was clearly made.

In a letter, Mrs. Mike Jones tells how JCP supervisor Dave Barrow "offered" to do the job at weekends in his own time using JCP workmen and equipment. It was agreed with Barrow that Mr. and Mrs. Jones would pay £50 for the equipment, "some of which would go to TCIC". The letter goes on to say how surprised Mr. and Mrs. Jones were when they discovered that, "the work had been done during the week", and that "Dave Barrow had not paid any of the money to TCIC".

News of the Curzon Road job broke in March 1977 when, angry at the promotion of Bill Thomas (a labourer of somewhat vague qualifications) to the job of undermanager of all the JCP projects at TCIC, a JCP electrician spilled the beans to Meg Brickell, the organiser of the Volunteer Bureau and the Wives Projects at Clyde House.

Deeply disturbed, Mrs.Brickell immediately tried to contact Charlie Jones, who was not at that time available. She contacted him later in the day when, she claims, he reacted violently and threatened resignation. Later, when reassured that accusations were not being levelled at himself Jones attended a special meeting of the TCIC Trustees. At this meeting it was decided to demote Dave Barrow. No further action was taken.

Keys

After the Curzon Road incident relations between Mrs. Brickell, Charlie Jones and the Clyde House establishment, which had previously been excellent, began to sour.

In a letter to the Chairman of the TCIC Trustees dated August 4th 1977, it is claimed that "Meg (Brickell) is slowly but surely being ousted from every committee". The same letter relates how a "member of JCP staff" was told that, "she would jeopardise her job if she continues to go into the Volunteer Bureau".

It was about this time that Tony Eddowes, the Conservative County Councillor for Gee Cross, Hyde, and the 'Director Designate of the TCIC Trust' had new locks fitted on all the doors in Clyde House, including the lavatory. Mrs. Brickell and the Volunteer Bureau staff were not given keys.

Eventually, in April 1978 Mrs. Brickell took the Volunteer Bureau and the Wives Project (which was still officially a TCIC project) out of Clyde House and into new offices on Stamford St. Ashton.

Gee Cross

The second "foreigner" involved the construction of two Dormer Bedrooms at a house in Gee Cross, Hyde, during Nov/Dec. 1977 by workmen employed at the TCIC Enville Place project, supposedly turning the old house into a refuge for battered wives. When this case came to light an official enquiry was held. At the enquiry it was revealed that the "foreigner" had

NS AT

been obtained by a JCP worker and accepted by Colin Ives who was supervisor on the Enville Place project. That JCP workmen had not only done the job on JCP time, using JCP transport, but materials from the Enville Place project - several Fire Doors - had been taken to Gee Cross with a view to fitting them there.

As a result of the enquiry, Colin Ives was issued with a "Severe Reprimand" by the Trustees.

a TCIC tenant. One of the vehicles, an old co-op lorry, belonged to the TCIC. The men, who later pleaded guilty to charges of theft, were Mr. Derek Hazlehurst and Mr. Malcolm Bradbury, who were both employed by TCIC on Job Creation Projects.

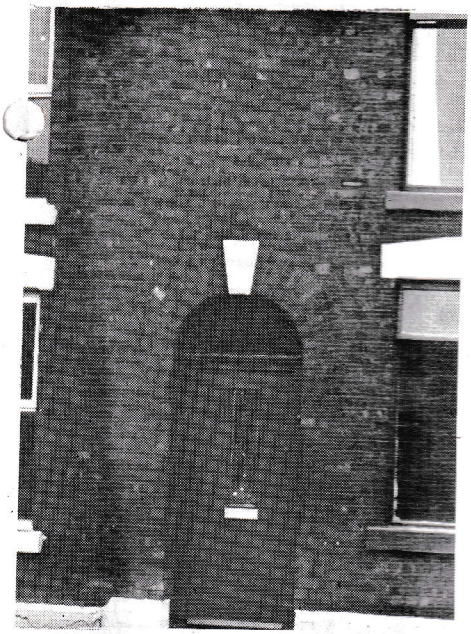
In court, Bill Thomas, the undermanager of the JCP projects, appeared as a character witness.

At around the same time as the Droylsden thefts, the TCIC Battered Wives Project was preparing to move into a new refuge at Guide Lane, Audenshaw.

When they checked the property for the secobd time, they discovered that all the lead was missing. When a complaint was made to the Trustees, Tony Eddowes, the 'Director Designate' stated that it was TCIC policy to remove lead and fittings from TCIC houses in order to prevent "vandalism".

Guide Lane refuge never had its original fittings returned.

INVESTIGATION



223 CURZON ROAD

LEAD ASTRAY

IN MAY 1978 TWO TCIC WORKMEN WERE PROSECUTED FOR LEAD THEFTS.

In a statement made to the Police, Mrs. Eileen Welch and her mother Mrs. S.Blake of Droylsden, tell how, in February 1978, they saw "Two Tall young men" loading "something" from number 89 Williamson Lane, and "copper cylinders" from number 91 into an "open-sided lorry". During the same week they saw a White Estate car parked outside number 85 and a man loading lead into the boot. 89 and 91 were empty houses and belong to Tameside council, 85 is occupied by

INCOMPETENT ACCOUNTING AND POOR ADMINISTRATION AT CLYDE HOUSE ALLOWED A SERIES OF DUBIOUS TRANSACTIONS TO GO ON WITHOUT CHECK. OUTSTANDING DEBTS OF OVER £20,000 WERE INCURRED, AND ON AT LEAST ONE OCCASION A TCIC TREASURER PAID HIMSELF MONEY TO WHICH HE WAS NOT ENTITLED, OUT OF PUBLIC FUNDS.

IN 1978 THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS WAS CALLED IN AND A MANPOWER SERVICES COMMISSION AUDIT OF JCP ACCOUNTS WAS UNDERTAKEN.

After making their audit in the Summer of 1978, the men from Manpower Services informed the "Director Designate" of TCIC, County Councillor Tony Eddowes, that his organisation owed the Government over £12,000. The bulk of this debt was the result of the TCIC breaking the JCP "52 week rule", which stated that no one employed on a JCP project could work for longer than one year. TCIC had employed no fewer than nine employees for longer periods: two of them, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Thomas, had been employed for nearly two years. In the case of Mrs. Thomas, she had married Bill during her first JCP year and her re-application had gone in under her new name.

Debts

Other debts resulted from TCIC purchasing materials and equipment, which Manpower Services would not accept as "an agreed cost", and for expenditure entered in the books but not supported by bills or receipts.

Flaws in the TCIC system had been noticed before the Manpower Services Commission audit. Staffing policies at Clyde House had caused concern in various quarters.

Manpower Services Commission had laid down the rule that all recruitment of young people for JCP projects had to be done through the official Job Centres and Careers Offices. But, when Terry Clark, the Tameside Careers Officer, made enquiries about this, he was informed by Tony Eddowes that TCIC recruiting was done through Charlie Jones' probation connections.

Books

The employment by TCIC of a County Councillor as an architect, particularly as he was also the 'Director Designate' of TCIC, raised eyebrows.

In August 1977, a letter was written to TCIC Chairman, Ronnie Mansergh, from a fellow Trustee, speculating whether expenses paid to "Architect" Eddowes, Supervisors Bill Thomas and Colin Ives, and "Book-keeper" Norman Higson, were really justified. In the case of Bill Thomas the difficulty arose because he lived just across the road from Clyde House, in a TCIC property, and went to work in TCIC vehicles.

Time

In the case of County Councillor Eddowes, because he spent a good deal of his TCIC working week at County Hall, from which he was entitled to draw legitimate expenses.

contd. on p 10

TY BEGINS AT

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at Clyde House.

Deeply disturbed, Mrs.Brickell immediately tried to contact Charlie Jones, who was not at that time available. She contacted him later in the day when, she claims, he reacted violently and threatened resignation. Later, when reassured that accusations were not being levelled at himself Jones attended a special meeting of the TCIC Trustees. At this meeting it was decided to demote Dave Barrow. No further action was taken.

Keys

After the Curzon Road incident relations between Mrs. Brickell, Charlie Jones and the Clyde House establishment, which had previously been excellent, began to sour.

In a letter to the Chairman of the TCIC Trustees dated August 4th 1977, it is claimed that "Meg (Brickell) is slowly but surely being ousted from every committee". The same letter relates how a "member of JCP staff" was told that, "she would jeopardise her job if she continues to go into the Volunteer Bureau".

It was about this time that Tony Eddowes, the Conservative County Councillor for Gee Cross, Hyde, and the 'Director Designate of the TCIC Trust' had new locks fitted on all the doors in Clyde House, including the lavatory. Mrs. Brickell and the Volunteer Bureau staff were not given keys.

Eventually, in April 1978 Mrs. Brickell took the Volunteer Bureau and the Wives Project (which was still officially a TCIC project) out of Clyde House and into new offices on Stamford St. Ashton.

Gee Cross

The second "foreigner" involved the construction of two Dormer Bedrooms at a house in Gee Cross, Hyde, during Nov/Dec. 1977 by workmen employed at the TCIC Enville Place project, supposedly turning the old house into a refuge for battered wives. When this case came to light an official enquiry was held. At the enquiry it was revealed that the "foreigner" had been obtained by a JCP worker and accepted by Colin Ives who was supervisor on the Enville Place project. That JCP workmen had not only done the job on JCP time, using JCP transport, but materials from the Enville Place project - several Fire Doors - had been taken to Gee Cross with a view to fitting them there.

As a result of the enquiry, Colin Ives was issued with a "Severe Reprimand" by the Trustees.

223 CURZON ROAD

LEAD ASTRAY

IN MAY 1978 TWO TCIC WORKMEN WERE PROSECUTED FOR LEAD THEFTS.

In a statement made to the Police, Mrs. Eileen Welch and her mother Mrs. S.Blake of Droylsden, tell how, in February 1978, they saw "Two Tall young men" loading "something" from number 89 Williamson Lane, and "copper cylinders" from number 91 into an "open-sided lorry". During the same week they saw a White Estate car parked outside number 85 and a man loading lead into the boot. 89 and 91 were empty houses and belong to Tameside council, 85 is occupied by

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CONT. FROM PAGE 9

Other TCIC documents reveal a string of oddities, for example;

- It was discovered that former JCP workers received wages from TCIC for weeks after their projects had finished.
- A sum of £1,000 donated by the Bishop of Chester, specifically to TCIC's Heathfield young offenders home, had been paid, not into the Heathfield Account, but into TCIC's, "so that it wouldn't show on the Heathfield audit, otherwise they may lose some of their Home Office Grant".

Then there was the curious case of the Honorarium of £100 a year paid to Norman Higson for doing the Volunteer Bureau books. In 1977 Mr. Higson paid himself in advance up to 1978. In a letter to Mr. Higson dated August 1977, Mr. Percy Rothwell, the Chairman of the Volunteer Bureau, expressed great concern at this and demanded "immediate and serious action".

After a further delay of over 6 months and after an exchange of solicitors letters, Mr. Higson eventually agreed to re-pay this Public Money at a mere £1 per week. So far only £24 has been repaid. Despite this Higson, who had resigned as Secretary to the TCIC in the Summer of 1977, continued to enjoy the favours of Charlie Jones. In June 1978 there was a 6-2 Trustee vote in favour of Higson remaining in part-time employment "for the purpose of making appeals for donations, collecting those donations and for administering a covenant scheme".

But by the Summer of 1978 things came to a head. Labour M.P. Tom Pendry had taken a file on TCIC to the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Manpower Services Commission audit was complete and the Tameside Community Involvement Council began to look like a sinking ship.

empire falls

A number of resignations were tendered from the board of Trustees including Tony Eddowes, Denis Holden (Director at Oldham Batteries). Councillor Tom Etchells J.P. decided to resign in order to disassociate himself from the organisation.

Tameside stopped supplying TCIC with properties for conversion.

The Franciscan Friars who had run the Heathfield project, and had developed close links with the community, pulled out. And in December 1978 the JCP schemes ended nationally.
The Empire was crumbling.

But in all the murk there was a sudden spark of light.
In the Autumn of 1978 the Director of Public Prosecutions dropped their investigations

TCIC was not finished yet.

OUT OF ASHES!

AFTER FACING NEAR RUIN AT THE HANDS OF THE MANPOWER SERVICES VIZIGOTHS THE CHARITABLE EMPIRE OF CHARLIE JONES AND HIS ASSOCIATES COULD RISE AGAIN.
TCIC IS NOW IN LINE FOR A £60,000 URBAN AID GRANT FROM THE GOVERNMENT AND A FURTHER £6,000 FROM TAMESIDE COUNCIL. BUT THERE ARE COMPLICATIONS....

The £60,000 worth of government money will be granted to TCIC subject to Tameside approval this year. But the report originally submitted to Tameside outlining the case for the grant was not prepared by TCIC but by Meg Brickell of the Tameside Volunteer Bureau and Secretary of the Tameside Wives Project. It asked for the money in order to pay the wages of wardens in the existing Battered Wives Hostels in Tameside. These hostels, although still officially controlled by the TCIC, have, since the estrangement of the Volunteer Bureau from Clyde House in the Spring of 1978, been run by Mrs. Brickell and the original Wives Project Committee. Meanwhile, the powers of a new TCIC Wives Committee, formed after Mrs. Brickell's departure, have been limited to controlling the new wives hostel at Enville Place in Ashton.

Mrs. Brickell claims that TCIC were quite happy to let her run the Wives Project for them, until the Urban Aid money appeared on the horizon. It is now feared that the grant she negotiated will go to an organisation whose competence to handle large sums of public money is, to say the least, in doubt.

On 24th January 1979, a meeting took place between Charlie Jones and Ronnie Mansergh of the TCIC and leading Tameside Officials. At this meeting the officials expressed concern about TCIC's past record, particularly in the area of accounting and money management.

short of cash

Meanwhile, TCIC are certainly in need of more money. After the JCP funds dried up last year its workforce shrank from several score to just one: Ex-JCP supervisor Bill Thomas, who is paid out of rents he collects from the Temporary Accommodation for the Homeless that TCIC still runs for Tameside. These rents have not only to cover Thomas's wages, but also TCIC's private debt repayments, leaving little for the upkeep of the houses themselves, which are deteriorating rapidly.

Plans to establish a TCIC Housing Association, though underway, are making slow progress due to what appears to be a rather cautious attitude on the part of the Tameside Housing Department.

If TCIC got control of £60,000 worth of urban aid, and the Council money, it would not only be a financial shot in the arm for the ailing organisation but would go a long way to restoring its somewhat battered credibility, after a year of persistently unflattering rumours.

At a meeting on Friday, 9th March at Hyde, Tameside councillors met members of the TCIC Trust to discuss Grant Applications made on behalf of the Wives Project.

At the meeting, it would seem that Tameside asked the TCIC members to meet with the old Battered Wives Committee to come to an agreement about the money. If no agreement is forthcoming, Tameside will reconsider.

A REGULAR COLUMN FEATURING THE OPINIONS OF INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO USE THIS SPACE, WRITE TO: TAMESIDE EYE, 109 OXFORD ROAD, MANCHESTER

Naked and free?

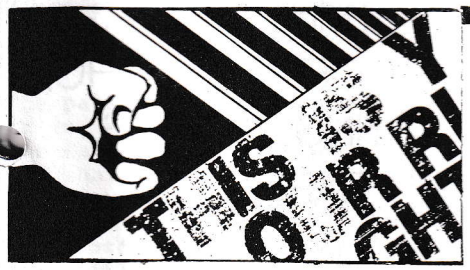
Most feminists object to the public display of women's naked bodies. We object to it nearly always on posters; frequently on T.V.; and sometimes on the stage. Are we Mary Whitehouses? Where does the women's "liberation" come in? If we want equality with men, why aren't we asking for equal numbers of naked men in all these places?

Why not indeed? Let nudity thrive! Trouble is, it doesn't. Not the male variety. No-one ever encouraged me to buy a car by draping his testicles over the bonnet. Or advertised their long distance haulage firm by sending me a calendar full of naughty naked men with big appendages. No landlord persuaded me to drink more by paying a man to undress himself on a table. Or sold me a newspaper by displaying male private parts on page 3.

Why not? Because WOMEN'S bodies are used to sell things; when you look at the sexy figure, you notice the car she's lying on and desire that too. Apart from selling things, sexy female figures displayed everywhere brainwash men into thinking of women as "only good for one thing". Cause women to spend hapless millions on cosmetics and painful clothing in order to live up to the sexy image. This distorted and degrading way of looking at women must stop. A new code of advertising practice which heavily penalised the use of naked/semi-naked women in adverts, could be a big step in the right direction. Until it is stopped, many feminists who are all in favour of naked female bodies, will be campaigning against their appearance in public.

JANE ROGERS,
Women in Tameside.

REPLIES/COMMENTS/ ARGUMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT ARE WELCOMED AND WILL BE PRINTED (SPACE PERMITTING) IN ISSUE 6.



Trouble in t'sun

Are you lashing out on a holiday abroad, or a package tour this year? Shelling out those hard-earned pea-nuts on a fortnight in the sun?

If so, we've browsed through through some of the small print and made a few notes. They could make it a holiday to remember, rather than one you'd prefer to forget.

Check the brochure carefully - if something isn't in print, don't assume it is there! E.G., This is a "quiet" resort - with no night life at all? An Artists Impression, rather than a photograph - perhaps the Hotel isn't built yet? When in doubt, ask the agent or tour operator, and if they don't know - ask the Country's National Tourist Office.

Made your choice? Now check the fine print - you know the basic cost but are there any "hidden extras"? e.g., Airport Tax and extra for a private shower or weekend travel. If you cancel it could cost up to 90% of the price of the holiday so read the cancellation conditions. Remember the booking form is a legally binding contract.

Insurance can be cheap, compared with what you may have to shell out if things go wrong. A policy should include Medical Expenses, even for EEC countries.

More information and advice is available at the Consumer Advice Centre, 30 Warrington Street, Ashton. Tel: 339-2517.

THRUSH

If you have irritation and discharge from the Vagina then it's likely that you have the dreaded 'Thrush'. It's caused by a fungus called Candida which is there all the time but occasionally gets out of control. It can be triggered off when women are on the Pill or taking antibiotics, or occasionally when they're pregnant or anaemic (and sometimes if they have diabetes). Thrush can be killed by altering the acidity level in the Vagina. How to do this;

1. Put a tablespoon of vinegar in a bowl of warm water. Sit in this for 15 minutes - repeat twice a day for a few days.
2. Insert a tablespoon of yoghurt (preferably live) into the Vagina (Can be messy but quite effective).

Prevention: Women who are particularly susceptible should avoid wearing nylon pants or tights and shouldn't use Vaginal deodorants or have hot baths. Thrush can be passed on by sexual intercourse so abstain if you do have an attack.

If the irritation persists, your doctor can prescribe Nystatin pessaries and Nystatin cream for your partner. If it continues your doctor will probably take swabs because occasionally it can be a symptom of something more serious.

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH: Meets Tuesdays in the Crowthorn, Crowthorn Road, Ashton. Local Secretary; Dave Copeland tel:339-2744

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199 Stockport Road
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ESTIMATES GIVEN

TAMESIDE VOLUNTEER BUREAU
300 Stamford St, A-U-Lyne.
tel. 339 2345
Voluntary organisations in Tameside need your help. Contact us for discussion about voluntary work.
Use the T.V.B copying services;-
DUPLICATING, OFF-SET LITHO,
PHOTOCOPYING, TICKETS,
BUSINESS CARDS, ETC.
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Contact:- for printing
MARGARET or GLENYS
for volunteers MEG or LYNDA
THREE CHEERS FOR VOLUNTEERS!

The General Store
11 Norfolk St., Glossop
Third World & Local Crafts
Cards, Pictures, etc
Open Wed to Sat, 10-6

IN WHICH WE APOLOGISE
FOR ALL THE COCK-UPS
WE MADE IN THE PREVIOUS
ISSUE.

First, we made a mis-
take in the figures
for the Mayor's
expenses story: The
cost of the Mayoral
£11,480. And Mayoral
transport cost £4,910
and not, as we printed,
£11,800. All the rest
of the figures were
spot on, including the
over-all total of
£40,000.

chief officers. The
percentage increases
we quoted were from
1973 wages. Since then
there have been others
which make the more
recent percentage incr-
eases somewhat less than
our article implied.

page thirteen

A NEW PAGE FOR ORIGINAL STORIES, POEMS, DRAWINGS AND PHOTOS. PLEASE SEND YOUR WORK TO J. NUTTALL, c/o 109 Oxford Road, Manchester 1.
KIDS WRITINGS AND DRAWINGS ARE ALSO WELCOME (PLEASE GIVE YOUR AGE AND SCHOOL)

looking song

The straight road threads an overpass,
And banks a calm canal.
Upon its other side's a field
Of figures, flapping, still.

A father walks a mongol son;
His spirit once was fired
On the battlefield of open war;
Staff sergeant, brave, retired.

Their route took in the stream and stickmen,
Poor, and thin, in rows.
But what the sergeant thought of them
Heaven only knows.

Each day they'd pause by a cork lifebuoy
Chequered white and red;
Each day the son would ask its use,
'For drowning men', he said.

Each day they'd turn to take the steps
Whereby to cross the road,
Beginning solipsistic climbs
On the bridge of iron and wood.

The son, a step at a time, climbs
In apprehensive joy.
The father watches awkward feet,
His toiling breathless boy.

Achieving the top - 'I did it! I did!'
Wipes sweat onto his shirt.
If he caught at all the wooden 'yes'
It did not seem to hurt.

The passers feigned unnoticing
Or worse, half smiled at you.
The father practised shame and hate
For what they thought they knew.

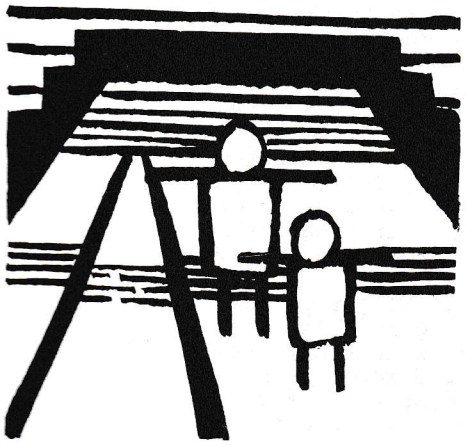
The footbridge boards were damp and warped
Where filthy water lay;
These mirrors broke, shivered in the wind
That penetrates this day.

Then suddenly, and without cause
Came a pure fear, a shout
Came from the son, and tears for nothing,
And arms that opened out.

Usually no such Godsends come,
And in the public view:
The paternal pattern clear as day,
An easy good to do;
Like Defiance, hugging itself,
Taking Duty's cue.

The sergeant pressed to him his son,
Embracings make both sure
As each discovers the other's face,
A gaze-corridor.

Outside fades a robinbreast east;
The man unconcious of
The early sky; but, gradually
His thoughts began to move.



Against this day the father felt
A pained inadequacy,
Afraid at the heart's subtler test
In harder privacy.

The man, maintaining and maintained,
Keeps down to the earth his arm
Around his son; reaching earth
By the stark and birdless farm.

And even homebound, through the field
Of fluttering stickmen
Maintains atonement, even when
Unwitnessed, even then.

(In value this seems little; those
Who can, in deserts, touch
And stretch a second, are not scarecrows,
Nor are they worth as much).

by Lindsay Fursland

love affair

Her lover Snow caresses Earth
Covering faults bride-white.
Beneath, her belly
Swells to beauty;
Mountains blossom from low stone walls,
And hillside curves like a new moon, sheer.
Green life dies.

Snow makes new shapes of his desires,
Touches her gentle, loves licks kisses
The virgin curves of his creation.
Locked in fantastic beauty
Earth freezes.

Thaw
Recoiling, he shrivels.
She is old and ugly.
Her lonely sharp-edged grieving face
Appears.

by R.James

TELEVIEW ON DAYTIME T.V. BY MARY BLACK

I used to think there was something a bit decadent about watching television during the day. Now, with a two year old who turns the set on as soon as she gets up, it's on most of the day and one of us pays it some attention from time to time.

The highlight of the morning is 'Play School' Every week a different man and woman presents the programme: a play, story, film and song. Rabbits, fish and a Cockatoo appear on Wednesdays. What do young children make of these grinning adults who play with dolls and teddy bears, paint and sing and dance,unhampered by small children tugging at their knees, or spilling paint? My daughter likes the inanimate objects in the programme best, the picture of the house at the begining, She'll usually point out the clock and then wave Bye-Bye, as the house appears again at the end.

ITV have similar programmes, 'Rainbow' and 'Daisy, Daisy'. The singing and graphics are usually better but they have simpering adult-sized bears and over-sized caterpillars acting as substitute children who are always being brought into line by the adults.

From midday to four-o-clock there's a diluted version of the evening's diet. For entertainment there's films, serials and domestic soap operas, and for self-improvement there's Open University, cookery and gardening. The sex and violence rating is much lower than in the evening. I have mixed feelings about the cookery programmes. I resent learning to be a better housewife, but if I'm at home all day anyway, I might as well do something more creative at tea-time than open a packet of fish fingers.

On Monday's there's 'Clapperboard', a good programme about films and film making. I've never understood why it's on in the afternoon. There's 'Play-School' for older kids in 'Magpie' and 'Blue Peter'. In these programmes men outnumber women by two to one.

The presenters of these programmes are almost all young, white and middle class. Both 'Magpie' and 'Blue Peter' seem to be well in with the army, navy and airforce; either awkward fugitives from 'Sexton Blake' or 'Biggles' books can be observed being alarmingly unembarrassed by what they do and say, or else one of the programme's presenters shouts excitedly and inaudibly from a helicopter.

'Tiswas', ITV's Saturday morning rival for 'Swapshop', is strikingly different: they have children in the studio, everyone gets covered in water and custard pies, and though the contents of the programme are nothing new, it seems much less wooden and contrived

So, what should daytime TV include? Certainly not more News, there's ample in the evening. I'd like more films which weren't American contemporary TV films; perhaps foreign movies that have limited coverage at present. Certainly we could with more community-based programmes, like 'Parents Day', analysing self-help groups concerned with education.

For minorities there are some Welsh programmes on in the day, but why do Asian viewers have to switch on early on Sunday morning to see something in their own language?

On the plus side 'Crown Court' is worth a look. Past trials have concerned Lesbianism, Incest and one recent series of episodes took a side glance at Race. The Negro in American films has gone from being an Uncle Tom, through the handsome, good, Sidney Poitier hero type, to the final acceptance of being cast as a criminal. In 'Crown Court' the defendant, a sikh , was actually convicted of manslaughter when charged with murdering his brother. By concentrating on the dilemma of someone bound by blood tie to secretly harbour an illegal immigrant, but afraid to fetch a doctor when he injures himself accidentally as the scandal will destroy the life he's built up the programme effectively defeats the stereotype and prejudice, without seeming to do so.

THE MEDIA music theatre

film review

39 Steps

The 39 Steps is a remake of John Buchann's classic thriller. Starring Robert Powell, the film romps through every Edwardian suspense cliche going. The opening scene is played in a London Fog, complete with cloaked, stiletto-armed assassin waiting in a dark alleyway. Upper lips remain decidedly stiff, and the consumption racked labouring classes don't get a look in.

It's Spring, 1914 and the Prussian menace haunts Europe (Political economic subtlety is not to the fore in this production!) The Master Agent (played by John Mills) has uncovered a German plot to precipitate war by assassinating the Greek Prime Minister on a visit to Britain to address the Commons. The Prussians have agents known as 'sleepers in high places' who must not be allowed to succeed until the navy is ready to protect the sceptered isle (they weren't quite thinking of Mons mud yet). Realising one of his superiors is a double agent, the intrepid John Mills makes a run for it after enlisting the help of his neighbour, a young South African mining engineer who is looking for laughs and just happens to be irresistable to women as well as an ace fell runner (essential qualities for the remainder of the film) The Agent makes it as far as St. Pancras, but falls foul of the old knife-in-the-back-through-a-copy-of-the-Times trick.

Our young hero is arrested for the murder but is rescued by the Sleepers who are after John Mill's notebook which contains details of their dastardly plot. Escaping, Powell is on the run from the police and the sleepers in a race to recover the notebook, prove his innocence, and save Britain from a fate worse than the First World War starting early. Any more plot and we'll spoil it.

It's good clean Keystone Cops with quite a bit of slapstick humour. There's not much strawberry jam about, and sex is restricted to hand kissing (gloved at that). The women are straight out of an 'After Eight' commercial. But all in all it's not too bad for a dank Saturday afternoon. So sit back and enjoy it - but don't let it stop you asking just what Britain's rulers had to gain by stopping the expansion of German Imperialist ambitions.

Arnold Jeffares

record review

Frank Zappa

SHEIK YERBOUTI -CBS

Listening to this album on the car cassette, driving down the M6 last week and therefore, without the benefit of the lyric sheet, it was interesting to note that Frank's lyrics sound sleazy even when you can't quite catch them. Reading the lyrics afterwards, it was obvious that some of them were amazingly sleazy, but the ones I'd noticed were mainly about Baby Snakes.

So, Zappa's first record on his new label - CBS - is a double live album taken from various locations, and as he painstakingly points out on the sleeve notes, it has "lots of overdubs". In fact one track, Rubber Shirt, is the result of a bass overdub in 4/4 having been peeled off a medium tempo guitar solo and transferred to another, slower song in 11/4 time.

There are ten vocalists listed on the sleeve and so what you get is a weird surf-music sound in quirky jazz type time signatures, but as ever Zappa's got some fine tunes going for him as well as some pretty funny lyrics.

He plays some invigorating guitar solos notably on Tomago and the Sheik Yerbouti Tango which seems to use an Eastern sounding tone-scale but to my mind the best track is the last track, entitled; "Yo Mama", it contains an electrifying solo by Frankie, starting off on his own then gradually bringing in the different instruments until it builds up to a terrific climax. Good Stuff!

Mick Lomas

Affront to Advertiser

One of our advertisers received the following charming little note from the National Front;

Dear Sir,
We note with some concern that you advertise in the magazine 'Tameside Eye'. Probably you are aware that this is a communist front publication, and that you are subidising red subversives red subversives who's (sic) aim is the destruction of all free enterprise and initiative in this country of ours.
We feel sure that knowing these facts you will transfer your advertising to a more reputable and patriotic paper or magazine.
R. Hawarth.
Manchester Area National Front,C/o 73 Great Eastern St. London Ec2.

This was adressed to Mr L. Harris of Harris Services, who has renewed his advert, and asked us to print his reply to the N.F.

Dear Sir,
I am neither a communist, conservative, labour, or liberal. I spent a considerable part of my war service in the Burma and Pacific campaign. This I assumed was to allow people like your national front to operate; and papers to print what they believe is right. You are guessing at the so-called subversive element running Tameside Eye. It is no more subversive, in my opinion, than the Daily Mail or any other paper printed in this country.

You have no right to "feel sure" about any aspect of my business unless you are prepared to invest money in it and work as hard as I do, assisted by my wife. Therefore, give me the credit for having enough intelligence to know exactly what I am doing whilst running my own business.

L.Harris

PENNY PINCHING COUNCIL

Tameside Eye has a list of the savings on job vacancies for April - September, 1978 - compiled by Tameside's Finance Department. In Total £135,000 was cut off the Borough's wages bill in the first six months of the financial year. Social Services contributed more than £30,000 to these so-called savings, and Education came a close second with £23,000. But, without doubt the most sickening item on the list is; Personnel Department - £1,834, the lowest savings! The most fully-staffed department in the whole of Tameside turns out to be the very one which should be easing the Borough's chronic unemployment, by making sure all council jobs are filled.

the secret life of **Uncle Ben**

DOOM
GLOOM
SO BIG C, MYSTERIOUS LEADER OF LAMESIDE COUNCIL WAS A BIT UPSET WITH ME.
BORROWED FROM SHOW
HULLO BOYS AND GIRLS! I WASN'T HAVING MUCH SUCCESS AT GETTING TORY COUNCILLORS TO TURN UP AT COUNCIL MEETINGS THUS PREVENTING A SOCIALIST TAKE-OVER AND THE END OF CIVILIS-ATION AS WE KNOW IT.....
WRH
BUT I TRIED
YOU KNOCK KNEED DIM WITTED MORON! YOU GROVEL-LING GERIATRIC! YOU BAG OF DONKEY SICK! YOU HEAP OF STINKING TRIPE!
THROTTLE
TRIED! TRIED! YOU USELESS GNAT'S TURD! (GOSH!!) I'M GOING TO FEED YOU TO MY FERRET!
THIS DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A FERRET BUT A FERRET
KILL!
NO! NO! NOT THAT. GIVE ME ANOTHER CHANCE
ALRIGHT! BUT IF YOU FAIL AGAIN YOU'LL WISH YOU'D BEEN FED TO MY FERRET
BUT WHAT DO I DO BIG C?
SEEING YOU CAN'T GET TORY COUNCILLORS TO TURN UP AT MEETINGS YOU'LL HAVE TO KEEP THE SOCIALISTS AWAY!
BUT HOW DO I DO THAT BIG C?
YOU MURDER THEM OF COURSE
GULP!
GRRR
GASP!
THWACK
COLIN JORDAN
WILL SUPERBEN SUCCEED IN MURDERING ALL 26 LABOUR COUNCILLORS OR JUST A FEW. WILL ANYONE NOTICE EITHER WAY? SEE NEXT MONTHS GRIPPING INSTALLMENT.